

What Do You Think?

Please fill out this survey, place in an envelope and send back to me.

How do you get around?

- ☐ Car
- ☐ Bicycle
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Carpool
- ☐ Telecommute
- ☐ Vanpool

How long is your commute one way?

- ☐ Less than 15 minutes
- ☐ Up to an hour
- ☐ Up to 30 minutes
- ☐ More than an hour

What reforms make the most sense? (choose 3)

- ☐ Boost accountability by making the governor responsible for transportation
- ☐ Keep transportation spending local
- ☐ Increase efficiency through benchmarks and incentives
- ☐ Prioritize projects, then use savings from program cuts for top priorities
- ☐ Stop subsidizing ferries
- ☐ Fast toll lanes in King County
- ☐ Encourage cheap alternatives like staggered work schedules and carpooling

Comments and Ideas:

(Please add any additional comments here)

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Transportation Report



Representative

John
Lovick

44th District

Transportation

Dear Neighbor:

Everyone I talk to in our community agrees: the current traffic crisis is one of the biggest issues we need to address in the legislature.

As a 27-year veteran of the Washington State Patrol, I have watched traffic congestion explode over the last two decades. This congestion takes away from time with our families, makes the roads less safe, and destroys the air we breathe. It also hurts our local economy.

But there is good reason to be optimistic. We now have a blue print for turning the crisis around. The recent recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation provide us with a cutting-edge vision for improving the state's roads and highways. As Vice Chair of the House Transportation Committee, I will work to put the best ideas into motion.

It is a privilege to serve as your state representative. I look forward to hearing your ideas on ways that we can improve the state's transportation system.

Sincerely,

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Legislative Hotline: 1 (800) 562-6000



A Collision Course with Reality

Washington’s population has grown 41 percent in the last two decades and is expected to climb another 29 percent by 2020. Along with population growth, the state’s healthy economy has brought increased employment and more cars, creating gridlock on our roads. Washington’s traffic congestion now ranks among the worst in the nation.

Those of us who drive up and down the Bothell-Everett Highway, or commute on I-5 or I-405, don’t need statistics to tell us how bad the congestion has become. We feel the crush of population growth in south Snohomish County, and we’ve learned which busy intersections to avoid during rush hour.

It has taken us 30 years to get to this transportation crisis. It will take some time to get out of it. But we have to start working now to get our transportation system moving again.

Population, Jobs, Miles Traveled

Year	Population		Jobs		Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled	
		% incr.		% incr.		% incr.
1980	4,132,353		1,984,600		82,923,598	
2000	5,821,000	41%	3,143,800	58%	147,558,904	78%
2020	7,496,100	29%	3,964,000	26%	202,767,123	37%

(Source: Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation)

Costs of an Overloaded System

Traffic influences just about every facet of our lives. It dictates how we spend our time, where we live and work, and the profitability of our businesses.

Traffic congestion in Washington state wastes time and resources worth more than \$2 billion each year. And with one in four Washington jobs dependent on international trade, maintaining an effective transportation system is vital to preserving our economic prosperity.

Gridlock also affects the air we breath. Last June, pollution levels in the Puget Sound region reached a crisis point as ozone pooled around the Cascade foothills. Most of the ozone was produced by the 3 million gallons of gasoline burned each day as motorists sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Worst of all, the time we spend in traffic is time we don’t spend relaxing with our children, families, and friends. The personal costs can be tremendous.



Blue Ribbon Solutions

Earlier this year, the Legislature received the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation. The commission was comprised of business and community leaders working to find long-term solutions to the state’s traffic problems.

They brought us a broad package of innovative strategies, many designed to increase efficiency and accountability within the agencies that build and maintain our transportation systems. They also recommended that we start fixing the worst congestion problems as soon as possible. In our area, this would mean:

- Widening the Bothell-Everett Highway (SR 527) north from 164th Street SE to 112th Street SE
- Widening SR 524 to five lanes from 24th Avenue SW to SR 527 in the Lynnwood area
- Widening SR 9 to five lanes from 228th Street SE to 212th Street SE near Clearview
- Completing congestion relief improvements on I-5 and SR 524 near Alderwood Mall

The commission said we should balance road construction by expanding public transit and reducing the number of trips people make in vehicles. I strongly support legislation to encourage travel options for commuters. These options include buses, rail service and vanpooling.

Park-and-ride lots make transit use and carpooling more convenient. Many lots in congested areas are now full. The commission recommends building more lots, with 15,000 new stalls in place, by 2006. This would be a tremendous benefit to those of us who commute to Seattle each day from south Snohomish County.

But new roads and facilities are only part of the solution. In order to solve our traffic problems we will need to be smarter with what we have. We will have to make better use of traffic service patrols to clear accidents and prevent traffic jams. We will need to synchronize traffic lights on key routes – like the Bothell-Everett Highway – to keep traffic flowing better. And we will need to use technology such as real-time video and electronic signs so that drivers can alter routes and avoid delays.